

REMARKS:Claims 3, 5-8, 10, 15

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5-8, 10 and 15. Claims 3, 5-7, 10 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims.

Additionally, misspellings have been corrected as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashima (US 5,894,447).

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the limitation that the magnetoresistive elements in the sub-cells be connected in parallel. This limitation is similar (though not identical) to that found in allowed claim 8.

Claims 2, 4, and 9 incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 14 is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0466 (Order No. JP920000390US1).

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Dominic M. Kotab
Reg. No. 42,762

Date: 6/24/04

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Silicon Valley IP Group, PC
P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, California 95172-1120
Telephone: (408) 971-2573
Facsimile: (408) 971-4660

JP920000390US1/IBM1P058

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